

Message Text

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SUBJECT: TUNISIA, THE EC AND REVERSE PREFERENCES

REF: A. EC BRUSSELS 3031

B. TUNIS 2026

C. EC BRUSSELS 3631

1. THE RECENT ISSUE OF COMMERCE'S OVERSEAS BUSINESS REPORTS--
MARKETING IN TUNISIA (OBR 75-37) CONTAINS A BRIEF DESCRIP-
TION OF TUNISIAN TRADE POLICY UNDER THE HEADING OF "MARKET
PROFILE" (PAGE 28). IT STATES QUOTE NEW EEC ASSOCIATION AGREE-
MENT UNDER NEGOTIATION, WILL INCLUDE REVERSE PREFERENCES UN-
QUOTE. WE ARE SOMEWHAT PUZZLED BY THIS STATEMENT IN VIEW OF
OUR UNDERSTANDING (REFTELS) THAT THE MAGHREB, AND SPECIFICALLY
TUNISIA, ARE NOT RPT NOT OFFERING TRADE RECIPROCITY IN THE
CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, NOR IS THE EC DEMANDING THAT IT RECEIVE
REVERSE PREFERENCES AT THIS STAGE IN THE MAGHREB'S DEVELOPMENT.
WHILE A FREE-TRADE AREA BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND THE MAGHREB
REMAINS A LONG-TERM OBJECTIVE UNDER THE EC'S "GLOBAL" MEDI-
TERRANEAN POLICY, IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE AGREEMENTS
CURRENTLY BEING NEGOTIATED WILL BE LIMITED TO PROVISION
OF SPECIAL PREFERENCES IN THE COMMUNITY FOR MAGHREB EXPORTS,
AND WILL NOT REQUIRE PREFERENCES IN THE MAGHREB FOR COMMUNITY
EXPORTS.GREENWALD

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